

# HAGGAI

## ENCOURAGEMENT TO REBUILD

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- \* Haggai means “Festival”.
  - \* He was the first prophetic voice after the Babylonian Exile.
  - \* He was a contemporary of Zechariah
  - \* There are two references to him in the Book of Ezra: • Ezra 5:1 • Ezra 6:14
  - \* Haggai 2:3 seems to indicate that the prophet had seen Jerusalem before the destruction of the temple and the exile in 586 BC
  - \* This means that he was more than 70 years old by the time he delivered his prophecies.
  - \* Unlike most of the other prophets, Haggai explicitly dated his prophecies, down to the day.
  - \* He gave four separate messages, the first on August 29, 520 BC (Haggai 1:1); the second on October 17, 520 BC (2:1); and the final two on December 18, 520 BC (2:10, 20).
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- \* **Chapters:** 2
  - \* **Verses:** 38

# BACKGROUND OF HAGGAI

- \* Haggai returned from Babylon with the remnant that returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel.
- \* Upon his return, he lived in Jerusalem.
- \* God called Haggai to prophesy to the people to finish the Temple, which had been started 15 years earlier when they returned from Babylon but construction had ceased when opposition arose.
- \* God used two prophets to urge the people to complete the construction of the Temple.
  - Haggai
  - Zechariah
- \* Haggai's prophecies were given in 520 B.C.
- \* At the time of the book of Haggai, it had been 16 years since the initial work on rebuilding the Temple had begun.

# REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

## Chronology of the rebuilding of the Temple:

- 536 B.C. - The work began.
- 534 B.C. - After two years (534 B.C.) the work was discontinued for 14 years.
- 520 B.C. - The work was resumed and completed four years later.
- 516 B.C. - The work on the Temple was completed.

(NOTE: 6 years of actual work was done over a 20-year period.)

- \* **After thousands of years, the book of Haggai remains unique among the books of Old Testament prophets for one key reason: the people of Judah listened!**
- \* The book is addressed to all the people ([Hag 1:13; 2:2](#)), but the message is also particularly addressed to Zerubbabel, the governor, and to Joshua, the high priest ([Hag 1:1; 2:2, 21](#)).

# OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

- \* *The book contains four appeals, each introduced by “the word of the LORD came” (Hag 1:3, 2:1, 10, 20)*

## I. A Call to Construction of the Temple, 1:1-15

- A. Introduction, 1:1-2
- B. The Reprimand, 1:3-6
- C. The Remedy, 1:7-8
- D. The Rebuke from God, 1:9-11
- E. The Reaction of the People, 1:12-15

## II. A Call to Courage in the Lord, 2:1-9

## III. A Call to Cleanliness of Life, 2:10-19

## IV. A Call to Confidence in the Future, 2:20-23